United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1658
3 June 1994

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ IAEA Director-General Hans Blix briefs Security Council on lack of cooperation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding verification of its past nuclear activities.

+ Friends of Secretary-General on Haiti reiterate support for return of President Aristide and for economic sanctions against country; call on Haitian military to surrender power immediately.

+ Secretary-General appeals for contributions to voluntary account which financed UNFICYP prior to June 1993, citing shortfall of $194 million; says troop contributors have not been reimbursed since 1982.

+ In report to Security Council, Secretary-General says Cyrus Vance will continue to mediate between Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; parties to meet in New York on 16 June.

+ Secretary-General to visit Geneva next week for seventy-fifth anniversary of ILO; to attend OAU Summit in Tunis on 16 June.

+ UNAMIR halts civilian exchanges after convoy fired on in Kigali; 250 displaced persons to safety before incident.

* * *

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, today briefed the Security Council on the lack of cooperation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to verification of its past nuclear activities. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the Agency had not concluded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had one or more nuclear weapons nor that its nuclear programme was being used for non-peaceful purposes. However, Mr. Blix emphasized that the IAEA could not verify the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's declarations regarding its discharge operations and, therefore, could not say whether nuclear material had been diverted for plutomium production.

Mr. Blix said as a result of the discharge operations at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's five megawatt nuclear reactor, the opportunity for meaningful analysis had been lost. He stressed that the Agency had not

(more)

For information media—not an official record

objected to the discharge of the fuel in the reactor, but to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's failure to go along with IAEA safeguard measures. As a result, there was uncertainty about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's past nuclear programme.

* * *

The Friends of the Secretary-General on Haiti today reiterated their determination to bring about a rapid return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and a restoration of constitutional order, as provided for in the Governors Island Agreement. In a meeting at Headquarters presided over by Special Envoy Dante Caputo, the Friends -- Argentina, Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela -- called on the Haitian military and its "latest purported government" to surrender power immediately.

Condemning systematic human rights violations by the authorities in Haiti, the Friends expressed their strong commitment to economic sanctions against that country. They welcomed the Dominican Republic's decision to seal its border with Haiti and said they were willing to consider further measures, such as the suspension of commercial flights and the banning of international financial transactions. The Friends stressed that after President Aristide's return, considerable support would be needed to ensure the restoration of democracy and national reconciliation. They agreed to start contingency planning for assistance with free elections, the strengthening of the judiciary and democratic institutions. Finally, the Friends expressed their determination to promote the full deployment of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) as soon as conditions permitted.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed for financial contributions to the voluntary account for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). In a letter to Member States dated 17 May, he said the account which handled voluntary contributions for UNFICYP prior to 16 June 1993 had a shortfall of $194 million. As a result, the United Nations had only been able to reimburse troop-contributing States up to June 1982. He proposed that States whose current assessment was lower than their previous UNFICYP contributions should now contribute the difference to make up the shortfall.

The Secretary-General said UNFICYP continued to play a vital role in promoting a peaceful political settlement in Cyprus. An unfair financial burden had fallen on States which supported the Force when it was financed entirely by voluntary contributions. He asked Members to respond generously to his appeal.

* * *

Cyrus Vance will continue his mission of good offices with a view to resolving the differences between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report

(more)

to the Security Council dated 27 May, he said Mr. Vance had presented a draft interim accord to the two countries in April. It confirmed their common border as an inviolable international frontier and established measures for confidence-building, friendship and cooperation. The draft aimed to achieve a preliminary agreement on a limited number of issues, including the interpretation of the Constitution of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, hostile propaganda, and "countermeasures" adopted by Greece.

The Secretary-General said that although the two countries had not been able to agree on the draft accord, they had accepted Mr. Vance's invitation to meet in New York on 16 June. He noted that the legality of the countermeasures adopted by Greece in February was being adjudicated in the European Court of Justice. However, he said he did not believe the case would have any direct bearing on Mr. Vance's mission.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali will visit Geneva next week to participate in a special seventy-fifth anniversary session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 9 June. He will also meet with the newly appointed Special Envoy for Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi, on 6 and 7 June to discuss the situation in that country.

The Secretary-General will leave Geneva for Tunis to attend the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit on 13 June, where he will consult with officials on a number of African issues, including Rwanda.

* * *

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) today moved some 250 civilians from a stadium and a church in Kigali across the confrontation line between the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front. It was the first time people had been able to leave the church, where an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people had taken refuge, according to a United Nations spokesman.

However, further scheduled exchanges had to be cancelled when a UNAMIR convoy came under fire while passing through a Government-controlled area in the city. The Deputy Force Commander of UNAMIR was also fired on while investigating that incident.

* *** *